

A Rhodes scholar and a maverick

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Adm. Stansfield Turner, nominated to head the Central Intelligence Agency, will bring to the spy agency a Rhodes scholar's mind trained in analysis and a reputation of something of a maverick.

Although he lacks background in direct intelligence work, Turner can be expected to challenge any conventional judgments or practices of the CIA establishment that fail to meet his standards.

Last month Turner demonstrated he is no prisoner of traditional methods of assessing comparative US-Soviet naval power.

Writing in Foreign Affairs magazine, the 53-year-old Turner deplored "a historic fixation with the numbers game" played both by those who say the Navy is becoming weak and those who contend the US Navy is outbuilding the Soviet Union's.

"Focus on trends rather than statistics will make the dialogue of the naval balance more substantial and productive," wrote Turner, now commander of allied forces in southern Europe.

A sensible approach will be to ask not who is ahead but to determine whether our naval forces in hand, considering the other forces on the planet, can carry out our national purpose.

It was during his two years as president of the Navy War college, that he invited Jimmy Carter then governor of Georgia, to come up to the Newport, R.I., campus to speak on his concepts of management, a subject of considerable concern to Turner during his career.

PROFILE IN THE NEWS



Adm. Turner (top) and Jimmy Carter in 1947 Naval Academy photos. (AP)

Associates of Turner said he has maintained occasional communication with Carter, an Annapolis classmate and that he was approached to consider the CIA directorship last week. It was not clear whether Carter has offered the job to Turner directly or through an intermediary, but they have spoken since then.

A native of Highland Park, Ill., Turner entered Amherst College in Massachusetts in 1941, switched to the US Naval Academy two years later and graduated in 1946.

Then he spent a year at Oxford earning a masters degree in philosophy, politics and economics. Later Turner went through an advanced management program at the Harvard Business School.

Turner and his wife, Patricia, have a son and daughter, both married.